

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3039

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8008

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, EG, IS

SUBJ: INTERMIM ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT

1. AT AUDIENCE ON LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 18, SHAH COMMENTED THAT HE HAD PUT ALL THE PRESSURE ON THE ISRAEELS HE COULD TO PERSUADE THEM TO AGREE TO AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. HE ARTICULATED HIS STRONG FEELING THAT THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR AN AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED SINCE FAILURE NOW CAN ONLY LEAD, IN HIS OPINION, TO WAR. HE MUSED ABOUT THE LIMITED SCOPE OF ANY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLE BE REACHED AT A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SPOKE, AS HE INVARIABLE DOES, ABOUT THE HAZARDS INVOLVED IN BRINGING THE SOVIETS BACK INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. WITHOUT EXAGGERATING HIS MOOD, IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT HE IS MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN I HAVE SEEN HIM BEFORE ABOUT THE FUTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING PACKAGE SHOULD FALL APART. AND MAY I HASTEN TO ADD THAT THERE WAS NO INTIMATION IN THIS DIALOGUE THAT HIS OPINIONS WERE EXPRESSED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON YOU. ON THE CONTRARY YOU HAVE NO MORE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTER IN YOUR NEGOTIATING EFFORTS, AND THE SHAH SIMPLY HOPES THAT HE HAS PERHAPS HELPED YOU A BIT BY WORKING ON THE ISRAELIS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT IN THE SINAI,

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THE SHAH IS INTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROPOSAL THAT AMERI-

CANS BE USED TO MAN THE RADAR SITES. HE STATED,"I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOU AMERICANS ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND GO AHEAD WITH IT. YOUR PRESENCE THERE BETWEEN THE OPPOSING FORCES WILL MEAN THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT ATTACK THE EGYPTIANS AND WE WILL HAVE NON-BELLIGERENCY IN THE AREA." THE SHAH WENT ON TO SAY HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER THE AMERICANS WERE CIVILIAN OR MILITARY. HE FELT THE SAME END RESULT WOULD BE OBTAINED.

3. THE SHAH WISHES YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR MISSION, AND I MUST SAY THAT HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT IT WILL BE FOR YOU.
HELMS

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